

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the abstract currently on file and replace it with the following:

A method for transmitting information in paths of an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network includes initiating setup of at least one new path in the ATM network if a capacity of a path currently used for transmission of information exceeds a setup threshold, assigning ATM channels to the at least one new path after setting-up the at least one new path, and initiating release of at least one path in the ATM network if a capacity of a path currently used for transmission of information is below a release threshold.